

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A portable electronic device, comprising:

a horizontally long casing, both ends of which are capable of being gripped by a user's both hands, respectively;

a display unit fit into a front face of the casing; and

~~an optical disk drive unit which has a lid opening backwards and on which a detachable optical disk is loaded, wherein~~

~~a planar region is provided at substantially a center of the rear face of the casing, and at least a part of the planar region constitutes the lid of the optical disk drive unit,~~

~~curved shapes are formed symmetrically on both sides of the casing respectively so that fingers of the user gripping the casing placed along the curved shapes make the tips of the fingers point away from the center of the lid of the optical disk drive unit,~~

~~further comprising which is installed on a rear face of the casing and on which a detachable disk is loaded, the disk drive unit having a lid opening backwards on at least a part of a planar region formed at substantially a center of the rear face of the casing;~~

operation means installed on each side of the front face of the casing, the operation means being configured to be operated by a thumb of the user gripping the casing; and

~~a button on the extended line of the curve on both sides of the casing for being installed on a side face of the casing and upper side of the operation means, the button being configured to be operated by an index finger and/or a middle finger of the user, [[and]]~~

wherein first curved shapes are formed symmetrically on both side faces of the casing,
the first curved faces being configured to guide the tips of the index and/or middle finger
naturally onto the button by placing the stretched finger for operating the button along the first
curved shape, when the user grips the casing with his/her thumb on the operation means, so that
tips of the rest of the fingers are away from the lid of the disk drive unit on the rear face, and

wherein a horizontally longitudinal cross section of the casing substantially perpendicular to the rear face comprises [[the]] a second curved shapes shape having gentle curves slanted such that a width of the cross section of the area, on which the operating means are placed, gradually becomes narrower from a nearer side to the center to the left and right sides of the casing at both ~~a display unit~~ the front face and [[a]] the rear face.

2. – 4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The portable electronic device of claim 1, ~~further comprising~~
wherein the operation means comprises a first operation means and a second operation means
~~provided on the front face of the casing, wherein each of the first operation means and the second~~
~~operation means is operated by a thumb of the user gripping the casing,~~

the first operation means is a direction instruction key having a plurality of pressed faces each corresponding to an operation direction,

the second operation means is a plurality of button keys each outputting single instruction, and

the center of the direction instruction key and the center of the button keys are shifted upward in the vertical direction from the horizontal center line of the casing when viewed from the user.

6. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 5, wherein when the casing is placed on a horizontal plane so that a face without the display unit is oriented downward, a top of the direction instruction key and a top of any one of the plurality of button keys are higher than the maximum height of the casing.

7. (Previously Presented) The portable electronic device of claim 5, wherein the front face of the casing comprises at least two areas, the direction instruction key and the plurality of button keys are placed in a first area, and at least one sub operation button not used during game play going on the display unit is placed in a second area, wherein the height of the first area and the height of the second area are different from each other when measured from a horizontal plane on condition that the casing is placed on the horizontal plane so that a face without the display unit is oriented downward.

8. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 7, wherein the second area is elevated from the first area.

9. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 5, wherein spacing between the pressed surfaces of the direction instruction key and spacing between each button of the button keys are different from each other.

10. (Previously Presented) The portable electronic device of claim 5, further comprising an analog operation means for outputting an analog signal for direction, wherein the analog operation means is located closer to the user than the direction instruction key and the center of the analog operation means is located inside of the center of the direction instruction key.

11. (Previously Presented) The portable electronic device of claim 1, wherein the surface of the casing is a resin molded part, the resin molded part comprising a transparent window through which the display unit can be viewed and a frame other than the transparent window, the transparent window being made of a first transparent resin, the frame being made from a second colored resin, wherein the first resin and the second resin are molded in a unified fashion by two-color molding.

12. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 11, wherein the first resin is molded to cover whole surface of the frame.

13. (Previously Presented) The portable electronic device of claim 1, further comprising a speaker within the casing, wherein a through hole is formed at the bottom face of the casing for emitting sounds generated from the speaker, the through hole being formed with an angle toward the front face of the casing.

14. (Original) The portable electronic device of claim 13, further comprising: a second through hole formed in the front face of the casing, and a duct formed inside the casing for directing sounds generated from the speaker to the second through hole.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Previously Presented) The portable electronic device of claim 1, further comprising notches on bottom left and right corners of the casing, wherein the notch supports a base of a thumb of the user's hand gripping the casing.